(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its present status; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Standing Committee Inspection Reports, recommending the affiliation of 41 ITCs run by the Scheduled Caste Development Department, Kerala have not been received from the State Director, Kerala. In the absence of these reports, it is not possible to consider their cases for affiliation.

As regards allowing the trainees of various Industrial Training Institutes/Centres in All India Trade Test, a decision was taken in July, 1997 that the trainees of the institutes which have been inspected by the representative of the respective State Council for Vocational Training (SCVT) and found fulfilling the norms of NCVT, be allowed to appear provisionally in the July, 1997 of All India Trade Test, conducted by NCVT. However, the results of trainees from such institutes will not be declared till they secure affiliation of trades/units from NCVT. This was a one time relaxation extended to all the States for July, 1997 examination. The State Director, Kerala has intimated that the trainees of these 41 institutes were allowed to appear in All India Trade Test held in July, 1997.

Central Training Institute

3525. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start a Central Training Institute for Training of Instructors of Industrial Training Institutes in Kerala preferably in Calicut; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

State Electricity Boards

3526. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has considered the proposal to dilute Government holding in State Electricity Boards to 26 percent as recommended by the National Development Council's Committee on power;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Planning Commission has emphasised on rationalising the tariff structure and improving the financial and operational performance of State Electricity Boards;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) whether any concrete measures have been suggested by the Planning Commission for implementing these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) The Committee of National Development Council (NDC) on Power submitted its report in September, 1994. One of the recommendations of the Committee is that in the long run State Electricity Boards (SEBs) be progressively restructured as corporate bodies with Government equity being reduced in the first instance to 51% and thereafter progressively to 26%. The report of NDC Committee on Power was discussed in the full Planning Commission meeting held in June, 1997. It was decided that the report would be circulated to the NDC in its next meeting for consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The Approach Paper to Ninth Five Year Plan indicated that the deteriorating financial health of the State Electricity Boards has been one of the most critical factors constraining power development in the country. The commercial losses of SEBs taken together were Rs. 7,500 crore in 1995-96. The Boards should be given fullest autonomy so that they may run in a commercial and professional manner. During the Ninth Plan, alternative models of restructuring the SEBs will be explored with a view to enhance their effectiveness. Concrete and determined steps should be taken for rationalisation of the electricity tariff. The issues regarding time-of-the-day metering/peak load pricing should be examined while rationalising the tariff structure. Such tariff rationalisation is not only necessary for generating adequate internal resources by the SEBs, but also for enlisting for participation of private sector which will come forward in large measure only when they are dealing with financially healthy Boards. These will include specific steps for reducing the cost of supply, transmission and distribution (T and D) losses, theft of power and for improving the Plant Load Factor (PLF).

During the Chief Ministers Conference held on 16th Oct. 1996 and 3rd Dec. 1996 to discuss the Common Minimum National Action Plan on Power a consensus had emerged on the need to carry out reforms and restructuring, including rationalisation of tariff structure and improvement in the operational performance of State Electricity Boards, within a definite time frame.